

In the Specification:

Please amend the following paragraphs in the specification as follows:

[0017] The shaped guide includes at least one elongated shaped member having at least a curved portion; and the connection mechanism including said movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the posts such that the shaped guide including the curved portion follows a shaped path. The elongated shaped member forms a partial circumference of a sphere and the connection mechanism including said movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the posts such that the shaped guide follows a substantially spherical shaped path. The shaped guide includes at least one exoskeletal shaped member or additional elongated shaped member forming a portion of the required shape of the tree or shrub and the connection mechanism of the shaped member to the support including said movement elements allowing sliding or pivotal movement relative to the support such that the shaped guide allows shaping of more than one portion of the tree or shrub than the shaped member covers in one position.

[0021] A cutting mechanism such as an electric trimmer or the like can be mounted on the shaped guide and able to slide along or move relative to the guide to ~~fulfil~~ fulfill the required shaped cut on the tree or shrub.

[0030] A cutting mechanism such as an electric trimmer or the like can be mounted on the shaped guide and able to slide along or move relative to the guide to ~~fulfil~~ fulfill the required shaped cut on the tree or shrub.

[0039] The invention is primarily directed at a guide for use in manual cutting of the tree or shrub in order to ~~fulfil~~ fulfill the preciseness required in topiary. However the invention can also be directed at a mount for a cutting mechanism where an electric trimmer or the like is mounted on the shaped guide and can slide along or move relative to the guide to ~~fulfil~~ fulfill the required shaped cut on the tree or shrub.

[0043] In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being ~~practised~~ practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0052] The elongated support 12 has two spaced elongated linear vertically extending posts 21, 22 each with elongated linear feet 23, 24 that form an inverted T shape. The posts 21, 22 are telescopic each having co-linear telescopic elongated sections 25, 26 extending upwardly away from the feet 23, 24 and from telescopic locking joints 27, 28 which can lock the telescopic sections 25, 26 at the required height. The elongated support 12 can be positioned adjacent a tree or shrub to be shaped and has a linear cross member 31 between the posts 21, 22 for strength. The cross member 31 further including a restraint mechanism 33 ~~32~~ in the form of a tie or loop and hook material and the restraint mechanism being substantially central such that it can fit around and be restrained to the trunk of the tree 19 to be shaped.

[0055] Referring to FIG. 4, there is shown another form of the shaped substantially semi-circular curved guide 13 in which the shaped guide includes a plurality of comb-like slits 14 to allow the shaped guide to follow a shaped path with parts of the tree or shrub to protrude through the slits and allow trimming thereof to shape the tree or shrub to the shaped path.

[0056] In another form of the invention, as shown in FIG. 5, there is a shaping guide with a plurality of shaped semi circular curved guides located around a standard tree being shaped. The plurality of the elongated shaped members are mounted on the support and positionable adjacent the tree or bush. The mounting is by movement elements of the connection mechanism that allows the elongated shaped members to move relative to the support around the tree or bush. The plurality of shaped semi circular curved guides can be moved to spaced positions to form an enclosing exoskeletal partial circumference of a shape and allowing a trimming of the tree or bush between the plurality of the elongated shaped members to form the virtual shape defined by the elongated shaped members. The connection mechanism in one form can allow releasable connection of the one or more shaped guides. The connection mechanism can allow releasable simultaneous connection of a plurality of the shaped guides. Preferably the connection mechanism allows separate movement of the plurality of the shaped guides. The connection mechanism with movement elements allowing separate movement of the plurality of the shaped guides allows a combination of various shaped guides and various movement elements and or movement elements to define a three dimensional shape.